

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

House Passes Legislation to Create Penalties for Striking Bridges, Overpasses



Provisions Would Address Trucks That Fail To Adhere To Posted Clearances

On Monday, June 6, the State Senate unanimously approved legislation containing provisions introduced by State Rep. John Harkins, R-Stratford, that would create a new motor vehicle infraction for drivers who strike bridges and overpasses after failing to adhere to posted clearance signs. Senate 1116, An Act Amending Certain Motor Vehicle Statutes, now goes to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

Under section 31 of SB1116, the state would establish a separate infraction for attempting to operate motor vehicle under any bridge or structure if the height exceeds the posted clearance. Attempting to operate a vehicle exceeding the posted weight limit of a bridge or overpass would also be subject to a new infraction under the legislation.

Rep. Harkins noted he worked with Stratford Police Officer Brian Norko to craft the provisions contained in the legislation.

“Drivers that fail to adhere to posted height clearances cause serious damage to public property and tie up traffic on our local roads,” said Rep. Harkins. “Unfortunately, these type of incidents seem to happen in Stratford on a semi-regular basis. This legislation sends a clear message to anyone driving a large vehicle that taking the chance it might fit under a given bridge is not worth it. It will give local law enforcement officers a tool to prosecute irresponsible drivers who disregard a posted clearance. Officer Norko is a credit to his department and is another example of Stratford Police Officers taking the initiative when a problem exists in law enforcement.”